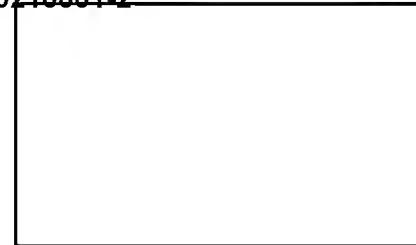




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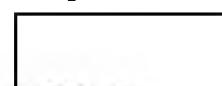


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*Monday
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The Overnight Reports, printed on yellow paper as the final section of the Daily, will often contain materials that update the Situation Reports and Briefs and Comments.

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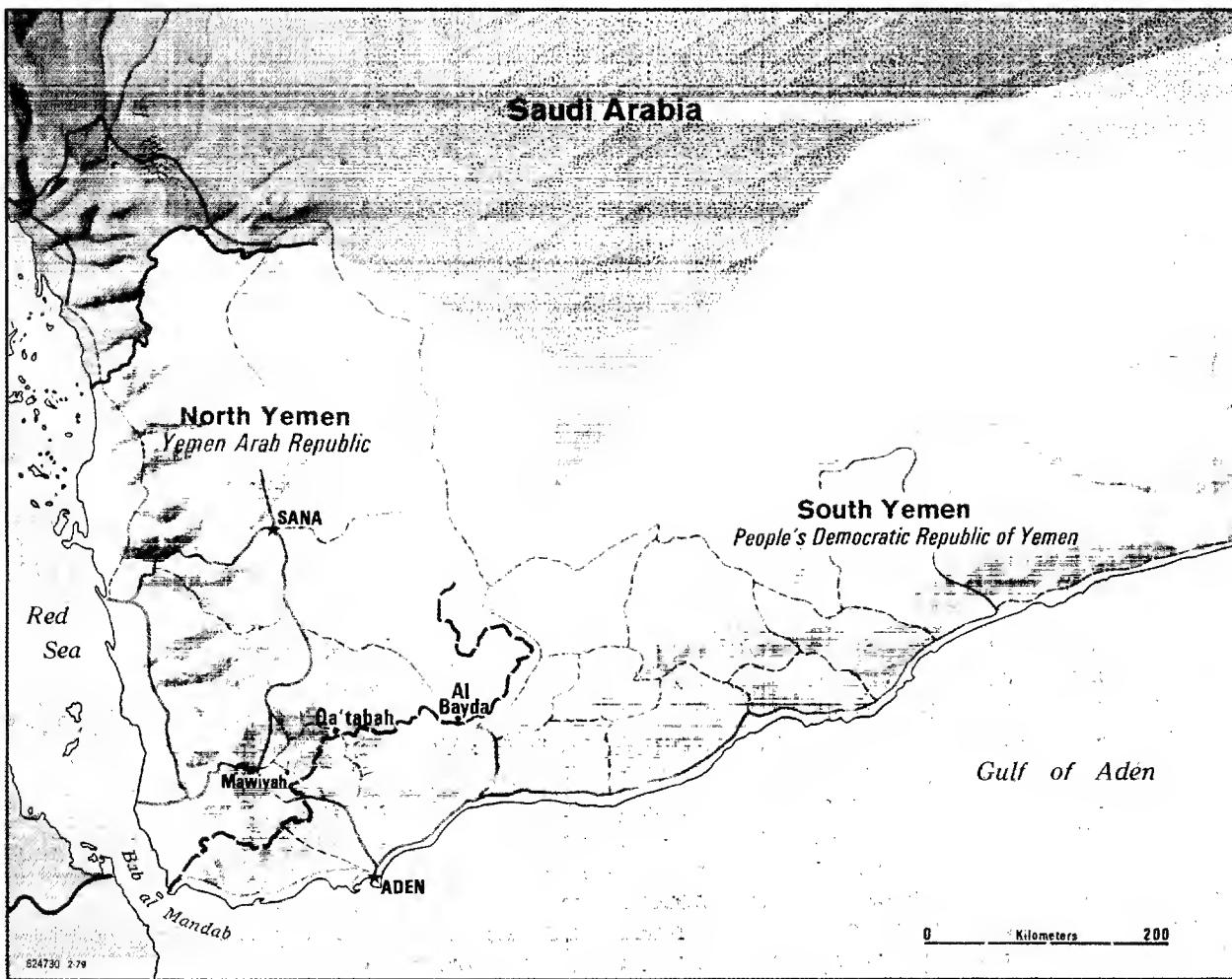
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BRIEFS AND COMMENTS

NORTH YEMEN - SOUTH YEMEN: Border Situation

North Yemeni President Salih told US Ambassador Lane yesterday that the situation along the border with South Yemen had stabilized but that heavy artillery fire from the south continued. [Redacted]

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Aden-supported forces reportedly control the towns of Qa'tabah and Al Bayda after heavy artillery shelling from the south drove the North Yemeni civilians and troops from the areas. The situation at Mawiyah seems less clear. According to North Yemeni President Salih, his forces have driven the South Yemenis back to the border in this area. Deputy Foreign Minister Al-Kibsi indicated that some South Yemeni artillery was located inside North Yemen near Mawiyah. [Redacted]

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North Yemen has called for an emergency session of the Arab League to discuss the alleged South Yemeni aggression. Yesterday South Yemen agreed to the convening of such a meeting. [Redacted]

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The North Yemenis requested military assistance yesterday from Oman and Jordan and earlier had asked for aid from the US, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. Salih apparently believes his handling of the fighting will provide a major test of his leadership abilities, and his requests for aid may have been motivated in part by a desire to demonstrate to both North and South Yemenis that he has significant international backing. [Redacted]

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NATO: Concern over Consultation

Many NATO members, especially those that were excluded from the Guadeloupe summit last month, are continuing to complain that the Alliance's consultation process is inadequate. They are making suggestions to ensure that consultations will be thorough as one round of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks--SALT II--winds up and SALT III approaches. [Redacted]

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NATO Secretary General Luns fears that the Alliance might be bypassed in the construction of a multilateral aid program for Turkey. He admits that NATO is not the proper forum for aid matters, but insists that the political and strategic aspects of the problem require that NATO be fully informed. [Redacted]

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NSC Deputy Aaron's consultations in London, Paris, and Bonn before his briefing of the NATO ambassadors in Brussels provoked a strong protest from the Italians. The Canadians, Scandinavians, Dutch, and Belgians were also concerned that Aaron's trip represented a step toward institutionalizing a dominant role for the four powers represented at Guadeloupe. [Redacted]

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On nuclear subjects, the sensitivity of the smaller allies about being properly consulted is already evident and is likely to become acute if they have any reason to feel they are being left out. Italy and the Netherlands, with general allied agreement, have asked to be furnished--well in advance--texts of unilateral statements the US intends to issue in conjunction with a SALT II agreement so that the allies can make serious comments at North Atlantic Council consultations. [Redacted]

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The West Germans realize that close consultations among all NATO members will be necessary as SALT III approaches and reportedly will propose that a new NATO forum be set up to discuss arms control of theater nuclear systems. To ensure thorough exchanges on modernizing these systems, the Dutch, with wide support from other NATO members, are pushing to expand the membership of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group. [Redacted]

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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

Rhodesia-Angola

According to a late press report from Salisbury, a spokesman for the Rhodesian military command has announced an air raid on a guerrilla training base in Angola, the first such activity by Rhodesia.

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USSR

The Minsk, the USSR's second Kiev-class aircraft carrier, passed through the Turkish straits as scheduled yesterday. It is on its maiden voyage from the Black Sea.

Israel

The government last night announced a 39-percent boost in the price of gasoline, effective midnight local time. Gasoline at the 94 octane rating now costs approximately \$2.35 per gallon in Israel. According to a Western wire service report, Israel's ministerial-level committee on prices is expected to announce today a 24-percent increase in the price of electricity--produced in Israel by oil-fired turbines.

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[redacted]

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Venezuela

The issue of the weekly Middle East Economic Survey published today asserts that Venezuela has decided to increase its fuel oil prices by more than \$2 a barrel beginning Thursday. The average price for Venezuela's fuel oil reportedly is to jump to around \$15.50 per barrel. According to the story, the Venezuelan Government has reserved the right to alter its prices for fuel oil later in March and has also asserted that it will have no fuel oil available for spot sales. [redacted]

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East Germany

Party-state chief Honecker yesterday returned to East Berlin from an African tour that included official visits to Libya, Angola, Zambia, and Mozambique. [redacted]

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